NOVEMBER 9

Tribulations, Patience, Experience, Hope

Romans 5:3-5

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
4 And patience, experience; and experience,

hope:
5 And hope maketh
not ashamed;
because the
love of God is
shed abroad
in our hearts
by the Holy
Ghost which is
given unto us.

Tribulations, Patience, Experience, Hope

The phrase, “We glory in tribulations” means we can still be thankful and still give praise *in* or *during* tough times. In the presence of storms, we are able to have peace because we know that these,

sometimes quite harsh, situations have distinct purposes.

This passage shows a process. Tribulation promotes patience which, in turn, gives opportunities for experience.

Then experience brings about hope. Hope prevents us from the shame of being without the love of God.

The Holy Ghost, which was given to us, causes God's love to fill our hearts. So indirectly,

tribulation has the ability to increase the expression of God's love within.

That is the case for the mind and heart which is submitted to God. God's love is spread abroad in

our hearts.

The bad times make way for chances to show that our Creator really does love and take care of us. We're shown that, were we to experience only good times, God

could not express his love within us to that same degree. In other words, we need the whole *tribulation, patience, experience, hope* process to allow God's love to be manifested throughout our

hearts—“shed abroad”.

It’s important to understand that it is God’s love, not our love, that grows and spreads. If we misinterpret this passage to mean we’re going

to be automatically more sweet, happy, or loving due to tribulations, we will likely be extremely disappointed.

Coverdale, 1535

Not onely ȳ, but we reioyse also ī troubles, for ſo moch as we knowe, ȳ * trouble bryngeth pacīēce, pacīēce bryngeth experīēce, experīēce bryngeth hope: As for hope, is letteth vs not come to cō fuſion, because the loue of God is ſhed abrode in oure hertes, by the holy gooſt which is geuen vnto vs.

Not only that, but we rejoice also in troubles, for so much as we know, that trouble bringeth patience,

patience bringeth experience, experience bringeth hope: As for hope, it letteth us not come to confusion, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts, by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

The Coverdale clarifies two points.

First, by using the word “troubles”, it indicates situations don’t have to be as extreme as the word “tribulations” implies; it can be any degree of trouble.

Secondly, the word

“confusion” makes much more sense in context to the rest of the passage. There’s a difference between not being “ashamed” (AKJV) and not coming to “confusion” or being confused (Coverdale).

While hardships could possibly cause shame, it makes more sense that seemingly unjustified grief may more likely cause **confusion** than shame. Why would someone be *ashamed* of

something bad happening to themselves? Perhaps if someone bragged that nothing bad could happen to them, they might be ashamed of troubles. Generally, however, when there are troubles we didn't

knowingly cause, there could easily be confusion as to the "why" such problem is happening or has happened.

Job, of the Old Testament, wasn't ashamed of the misery heaped on

him, but he surely was confused.

Confusion is similar to saying, “Why is this happening? Where are you, God? What’s going on?”

From the Coverdale, we are told that any of these troublesome

things happening
don't have to leave
us confused
because the love
of God is in action.

So, the entire process
of tribulations,
patience, experience,
and hope is ultimately
a good thing.

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SCRIPTURE
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PRAYER